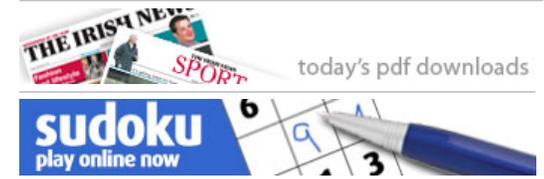


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'Police murder files not yet released'

By Staff reporter

26/01/08

POLICE have not yet released all files on the murder of a GAA official 10 years ago, Belfast Coroners Court heard yesterday.

Sean Brown (61) was abducted by an LVF gang as he locked up the Wolfe Tones Gaelic Athletic Club in Bellaghy on May 12 1997.

The father-of-six was shot several times in the head and his body was later found beside his burnt out car in Randalstown.

At a preliminary inquest hearing into Mr Brown's death at Belfast Coroners Court yesterday barrister Karen Quinliven, who is representing the Brown family, said they had not yet received all the police files in relation to

the case.

Ms Quinliven also said there were still questions to be answered about the RUC investigation, particularly the unexplained disappearance of a key file from a police station in 2001.

A lawyer representing the PSNI said the police files contain sensitive material including intelligence documents.

However, coroner John Leckey queried whether the material remains sensitive given that one of the key people implicated in Mr Brown's murder, former LVF leader Mark 'Swinger' Fulton, has died.

A police officer told the court police

files on the case amount to up to 7,000 documents.

In 2004 former Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan criticised the RUC investigation of Mr Brown's murder, branding it as "incomplete and inadequate".

Although more than a dozen people have been questioned about the murder no-one has ever been charged.